



# **SUMMARY OF COST-SHARE PROGRAMS**

**...or Alphabet Soup made easy...**

## **State Forester Forum**

To the average forest landowner the vast array of cost-share programs must seem like a jumbled soup of alphabet acronyms. There's, CRP, EQIP, FLEP, and HIP and they are administered by agencies called FSA, IDL, NRCS and IDF&G. All can be worthwhile programs providing incentives to landowners wanting to enhance the management of their property. Each program has a different emphasis and there is limited funding from year to year.

### **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

Most farmers are familiar with the Conservation Reserve Program. It is designed to help landowners remove highly erodible cropland and wet lands from production. The landowner receives a 50% cost-share plan to establish a soil stabilizing cover and an annual rental payment for a 10 to 15 year period specified in a contract with the FSA. Much cropland in Idaho that has been placed in CRP has been planted to grass but tree planting, when suitable, is a viable and preferred alternative because long-term benefits are greater. CRP property planted to trees would eventually become an established forest with all the associated resource benefits.

Contracts are commonly written for 10 years; the cost-share rate for tree planting is approximately 50% is an extra advantage. The rental payment received each year for not tilling the soil and planting a crop. Only highly erodible land qualifies, and the parcel must have been actively farmed in the recent past. Additional information is available by contacting the county FSA office.

### **Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)**

EQIP is the Environmental Quality Improvement Program. Many farmers and ranchers are familiar with the EQIP since it includes many practices related to farming and soil conservation measures. It is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Idaho Department of Lands can provide the technical assistance on forestry-related practices. Almost all forestry activities are eligible for funding especially tree planting, thinning, and site-preparation for natural regeneration.

EQIP contracts are usually written for 10 years and covers multiple practices over that period. The cost-share rate is 50% and the practice must be maintained for at least ten years, as is the case for all cost-share programs. There is a maximum payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year. If you are interested, contact the nearest NRCS office in the county in which your property is located.

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### **Forest Management**

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## **Forest Land Enhancement Program**

FLEP is administered by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), the latest and most comprehensive forestry cost-share program in terms of types of activities and incentive rates. It is designed for landowners wishing to perform several different types of practices on their property, and is the financial companion to the Forest Stewardship Program. IT covers just about all aspects of land management for the landowner interested in any of the natural resources found on a property: timber, wildlife, fish, soil, recreation, and forest health.

FLEP includes funding for tree planting, seeding protection from wildlife, weed control, timber stand improvement like thinning, fertilizing, fencing and windbreak establishment, riparian or streambank protection and improvement, soil stabilization, erosion control measures, fisheries habitat improvement, streambank vegetation planting.

To qualify for FLEP, a landowner must own more than one acre of forest land or plan to plant at least one acre of trees. The incentive rate is a maximum of 75% of the expenses incurred by the landowner, with a maximum payment of \$10,000 per year per ownership.

**A** Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) is required and must address all natural resources found on the property. The LFSP is written by a natural resource professional with the approval of the landowner, incorporating the particular objectives of the landowner in regards to their resources. If the property is fairly small or the types of resources limited, a short two or three page LRSP may be prepared by an IDL, Private Forestry Specialist (PFS) at no cost. If a more detailed plan is necessary or the landowner desires a LFSP may be prepared by a professional consultant. The plan itself is eligible for incentive funding.

Interested landowners should contact the nearest IDL office or call the toll-free Forest Stewardship Hotline: 800-432-4648.

## **Habitat Improvement Program (HIP)**

HIP is a State program administered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). It is designed to assist private landowners interested in creating or enhancing wildlife habitat. IDFG will provide the technical expertise required to design projects and reimburse a percentage of costs associated with the developments, generally 75 to 90%. To be eligible for funding, projects must benefit one of the following species: ring-necked pheasants, quail, gray partridge, chukar partridge, ducks (any species), or Canada geese. Common projects include, but are not limited to: shallow water pond construction, planting dense nesting cover, establishing food plots, developing shrub thickets, fencing riparian areas, and planting windbreaks.

The emphasis of the program is on the wildlife production and there is no requirement that the land enrolled in HIP be opened to public access. For more information, contact the nearest IDFG office.

## **For Further Information**

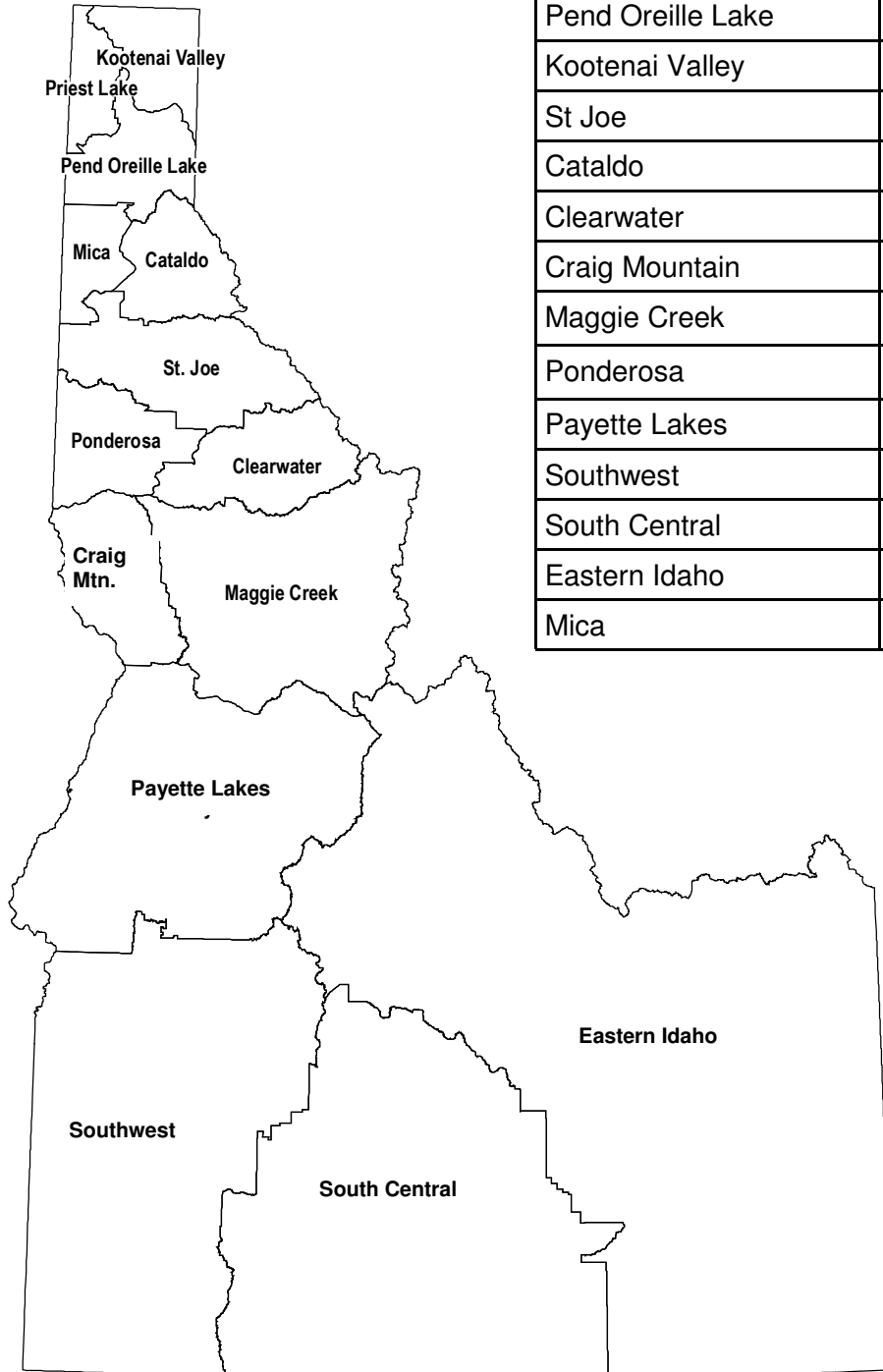
**M**ost county (USDA, United States Department of Agricultural) offices and IDL PFS have handbooks detailing all the components of each program. Brochures are also available. A landowner may wish to accomplish different practices on a piece of property by utilizing a combination of programs. County Extension Agents of the (CES, Cooperative Extension Service) can direct you to the U.S. FSA or NRPS office or the nearest IDL office for more information.

# SUMMARY OF COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

COST-SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY	FLEP	ACP	EQIP	CRP	HIP
Time Commitment (years)	10	10	10	10	10
Management Plan Required	Forest Stewardship Mgt. Plan		Forest Mgt. Plan	Conservation Plan	Habitat Plan
Maximum Cost-Share, per year (\$)	10,000	3,500	10,000	50,000	2,000
Maximum Cost-Share Rate (%)	75	65	65	50	75-100
Minimum Acres	1	1	10	1	1/2
Tree Planting	X	X	X	X	<4 acres
Fertilizing/Pruning/Thinning Trees	X	Thin Only	Thin Only		
Wildlife Habitat Improvement	X	X		X	X
Fish Habitat Improvement	X				
Windbreak Planting	X	X			X
Recreation & Aesthetics	X				
Pond Development		X		X	X
Streambank Stabilization & Protection	X	X			X
Soil Stabilization	X	X			X
Contact	IDL/ASCS	ASCS	ASCS	ASCS	IDF&G



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
ANY IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
FOREST PRACTICES ADVISOR**



Area Office	Location	Phone
Priest Lake	Coolin	(208) 443-2516
Pend Oreille Lake	Sandpoint	(208) 263-5104
Kootenai Valley	Bonn timers Ferry	(208) 267-5577
St Joe	St Maries	(208) 245-4551
Cataldo	Kingston	(208) 682-4611
Clearwater	Orofino	(208) 467-4587
Craig Mountain	Craigmont	(208) 924-5571
Maggie Creek	Kamiah	(208) 935-2141
Ponderosa	Deary	(208) 877-1121
Payette Lakes	McCall	(208) 634-7125
Southwest	Boise	(208) 334-3488
South Central	Gooding	(208) 934-5606
Eastern Idaho	Idaho Falls	(208) 525-7167
Mica	Coeur d'Alene	(208) 769-1577